

## Office of the United States Attorney District of Arizona

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FORMER FUGITIVE SENTENCED TO 87 MONTHS FOR ASSAULTING FEDERAL AGENTS

TUCSON, Ariz. – Vincente Raymundo Nunez-Ulate, 26, of Rio Rico, Ariz., was sentenced here to 87 months in prison on April 28, 2005 by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Nunez-Ulate had pleaded guilty on February 16, 2005 to one count of Assault on a Federal Agent, Two Counts of Assault on a Federal Agent with a Deadly Weapon and One Count of Possession of a Weapon by a Previous Offender. The defendant was sentenced to serve 87 months in prison on each count, but all counts will run concurrently. Following the completion of his prison sentence, Nunez-Ulate will serve a three year term of supervised release.

On July 26, 2004, agents from ATF, ICE and deputies from the Pima County Sheriff's Department SWAT team responded to a trailer on Arivaca Road in an attempt to serve an arrest warrant on Nunez-Ulate. As agents approached the residence, they observed the defendant, dressed in fatigues, attempting to escape through a window. During the attempted flight, the defendant reached into his waistband and threw down a 9mm Bryco Arms pistol. The defendant was taken into custody following a brief foot pursuit.

Nunez-Ulate had twice eluded federal agents after absconding from state parole and going into hiding in the Arivaca, Ariz. area in February 2004. On one occasion, he struck an ICE agent in the face before absconding from the scene in a vehicle which was later found to contain body armor and night vision equipment. On the second occasion, the defendant was contacted by two U.S. Border Patrol Agents near the United States / Mexico international border in Arivaca, Ariz. After identifying himself to the agents, the defendant fled towards Mexico in an SUV. Prior to reaching the border, the defendant reversed direction in a narrow canyon. When agents got out of their patrol vehicles to confront Nunez-Ulate, he accelerated in their direction forcing the agents to fire several rounds at the vehicle to avoid being struck. The defendant's truck then veered sharply off the road and he escaped on foot into the surrounding hills.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Border Patrol, ICE, ATF, FBI and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution was handled by Brad W. Giles, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

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